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County of Los Angeles, a public entity

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

REGINA CASTRO,
Plaintiff,
v.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,
CHAD MELTON, and DOES 1
through 10, inclusive,
Defendants.

} Case No.: 2:23-cv-02810-WLH-MARx

} **STIPULATION RE: PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

}
}

[DISCOVERY DOCUMENT;
REFERRED TO MAGISTRATE
JUDGE]

Plaintiff REGINA CASTRO, and Defendants, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, and DEPUTY CHAD MELTON, by and through their respective counsel, hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.

Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter

1 the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order
2 does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and
3 that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the
4 limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the
5 applicable legal principles.

6 The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this
7 Stipulated Protective Order does not automatically entitle them to file confidential
8 information under seal and that Local Civil Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that
9 must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks
10 permission from the Court to file material under seal. The parties agree that this
11 protective order does not waive the parties' rights to object to discovery demands
12 or requests for documents and/or information.

13 **1.2 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

14 This civil action arises out of the death of Samuel Nunez, who was shot by
15 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department ("LASD") Deputy Melton on March 13,
16 2022.

17 This action is likely to involve confidential, proprietary, official, and/or
18 private law enforcement and police personnel information for which special
19 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than
20 prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials
21 and information consist of, among other things, confidential proprietary
22 information/or private personnel police information, regarding confidential
23 contained in police personnel files, official law enforcement investigative
24 information, information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which
25 may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal
26 statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Moreover, as with most
27 officer-involved shootings in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County
28 District Attorney's Office, Justice System Integrity Division (JSID), commenced

1 an independent investigation into this shooting, which analyzes confidential law
2 enforcement investigative materials and evaluates the legality of the shooting.
3 Ensuring the confidentiality of the law enforcement investigative materials, which
4 may be subject to disclosure and discovery in this matter, is important to ensuring
5 the integrity of the ongoing criminal investigation.

6 Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt
7 resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately
8 protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the
9 parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for
10 and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and
11 serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this
12 matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be designated as
13 confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good
14 faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,

15 **2. DEFINITIONS**

16 **2.1 Action:** *Regina Castro v. County of Los Angeles, et al., 2:23-cv-*
17 *02810-WLH-MARx.*

18 **2.2 Challenging Party:** A Party or Non-Party that challenges the
19 designation of information or items under this Order.

20 **2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items:** Information (regardless
21 of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that a Designating
22 Party believes is entitled to confidential treatment under Federal Rule of Civil
23 Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Purposes and Limitations Statement.
24 This also includes (1) any information copied or extracted from the Confidential
25 information; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, abstracts or compilations of
26 Confidential information; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations
27 that might reveal Confidential information.

28 **2.4 Counsel:** Counsel of record for the parties to this civil litigation and

1 their support staff.

2 **2.5 Designating Party:** A Party or Non-Party that designates information
3 or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
4 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

5 **2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material:** All items or information,
6 regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained
7 (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are
8 produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

9 **2.7 Expert:** A person with specialized knowledge or experience in a
10 matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to
11 serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

12 **2.8 Final Disposition:** When this Action has been fully and completely
13 terminated by way of settlement, dismissal, trial and/or appeal.

14 **2.9 House Counsel:** Attorneys other than Counsel (as defined in
15 paragraph 2.4) and who are employees of a party to this Action.

16 **2.10 Non-Party:** Any natural person, partnership, corporation, association
17 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

18 **2.11 Outside Counsel of Record:** Attorneys who are not employees of a
19 party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action
20 and have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law
21 firm that has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

22 **2.12 Party:** Any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
23 boards, departments, divisions, employees, consultants, retained experts, and
24 Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staff).

25 **2.13 Producing Party:** A Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
26 Discovery Material in this Action.

27 **2.14 Professional Vendors:** Persons or entities that provide litigation
28 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or

1 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
2 and their employees and subcontractors.

3 **2.15 Protected Material:** Any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
4 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

5 **2.16 Receiving Party:** A Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
6 Material from a Producing Party.

7 **3. SCOPE**

8 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
9 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
10 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, abstracts, summaries, or
11 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any deposition testimony,
12 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal
13 Protected Material.

14 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
15 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

16 **4. DURATION**

17 **4.1** Once a trial commences in this Action, information that was
18 designated as CONFIDENTIAL or maintained pursuant to this protective order
19 and that is introduced or admitted as an exhibit at trial becomes public and will be
20 presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless
21 compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are
22 made to the trial judge in advance of the trial. See *Kamakana v. City and County of*
23 *Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006) (distinguishing “good cause”
24 showing for sealing documents produced in discovery from “compelling reasons”
25 standard when merits-related documents are part of court record). Accordingly, the
26 terms of this protective order do not extend beyond the commencement of the trial.

27 **4.2** Further, even after final disposition of this litigation, the
28 confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order will remain in effect until a

1 Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs,
 2 except for any materials admitted as exhibits and made public at trial, as described
 3 and identified in paragraph 4.1. Final disposition will be deemed to be the later of
 4 (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with or without prejudice;
 5 and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals,
 6 rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action, including the time limits for
 7 filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

8 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

9 **5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for**
 10 **Protection.**

11 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
 12 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
 13 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must
 14 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items or oral or
 15 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material,
 16 documents, items or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
 17 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

18 Mass, indiscriminate or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
 19 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
 20 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to
 21 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
 22 Designating Party to sanctions.

23 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
 24 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
 25 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

26 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise
 27 provided in this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as
 28 otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for

1 protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is
2 disclosed or produced.

3 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

4 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
5 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
6 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
7 “CONFIDENTIAL” or words of a similar effect, and that includes the case name
8 and case number (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
9 contains protected material. If only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for
10 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
11 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

12 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
13 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
14 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
15 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
16 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the
17 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine
18 which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order.
19 Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix
20 the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If
21 only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
22 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
23 appropriate markings in the margins).

24 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies
25 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the
26 deposition all protected testimony.

27 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
28 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the

1 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
2 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
3 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
4 protected portion(s).

5 **5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate.** If timely corrected, an
6 inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing
7 alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for
8 such material. Upon timely correction of an inadvertent failure to designate, the
9 Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated
10 in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

11 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

12 **6.1 Timing of Challenges.** Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
13 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
14 Scheduling Order.

15 **6.2 Meet and Confer.** The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
16 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

17 **6.3** The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be
18 on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
19 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
20 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
21 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
22 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
23 entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the
24 challenge.

25 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

26 **7.1 Basic Principles.** A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that
27 is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with
28 this Action only for prosecuting, defending or attempting to settle this Action.

1 Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and
2 under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been
3 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below
4 (FINAL DISPOSITION).

5 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
6 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
7 authorized under this Order.

8 **7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.** Unless
9 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
10 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
11 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

12 (a) the Receiving Party’s Counsel of Record in this Action, as well as
13 employees of said Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to
14 disclose the information for this Action;

15 (b) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
16 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
17 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

18 (c) the court and its personnel;

19 (d) court reporters and their staff;

20 (e) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
21 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
22 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

23 (f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
24 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

25 (g) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
26 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing
27 party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit “A” hereto; and
28 (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign

1 the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit “A”), unless
2 otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of
3 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected
4 Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed
5 to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order;

6 (h) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
7 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions; and
8 (i) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the
9 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action.

10 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**

11 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

12 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
13 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
14 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

15 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
16 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

17 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
18 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
19 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy
20 of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

21 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
22 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

23 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order in the action in
24 which the subpoena or order was issued, the Party served with the subpoena or
25 court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
26 “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena
27 or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission.
28 The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in

1 that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be
2 construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey
3 a lawful directive from another court.

4 **9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE
5 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

6 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
7 Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
8 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
9 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
10 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

11 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
12 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
13 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
14 confidential information, then the Party shall:

15 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
16 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a
17 confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

18 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
19 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and
20 a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

21 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
22 Non-Party, if requested.

23 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14
24 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
25 may produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the discovery
26 request.

27 If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
28 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the

1 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
2 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and
3 expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

4 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

5 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has
6 disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized
7 under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a)
8 notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its
9 best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform
10 the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms
11 of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the
12 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit
13 A.

14 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR**
OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

15 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
16 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
17 protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal
18 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
19 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for
20 production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence
21 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure
22 of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or
23 work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the
24 stipulated protective order submitted to the court.

25 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

26 **12.1 Right to Further Relief.** Nothing in this Order abridges the right of
27 any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

1 **12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections.** By stipulating to the entry of this
2 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
3 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in
4 this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on
5 any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
6 Order.

7 **12.3 Filing Protected Material.** A Party that seeks to file under seal any
8 Protected Material must comply with Local Civil Rule 79-5. Protected Material
9 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
10 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
11 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
12 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

13 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

14 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraphs 2.8 and 4,
15 within 60 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party
16 must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material.
17 As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
18 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
19 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
20 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if
21 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that
22 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was
23 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any
24 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
25 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel
26 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
27 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition
and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert

1 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival
2 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this
3 Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

4 **14. VIOLATION**

5 Any willful violation of this Order may be punished by appropriate
6 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
7 sanctions.

8
9 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

10 ///

11
12 DATED: October 24, 2023

LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO

13
14 By: /s/
15 Dale K. Galipo, Esq.
16 Marcel F. Sincich, Esq.
17 Shannon J. Leap, Esq.
18 Attorneys for Plaintiff REGINA CASTRO

19
20 DATED: October 24, 2023

CARPENTER, ROTHANS & DUMONT

21
22 By: /s/ Scott J. Carpenter
23 JILL WILLIAMS
24 SCOTT J. CARPENTER
25 Attorneys for Defendant
26 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

27
28 DATED: October 24, 2023

SEKI, NISHIMURA & WATASE, LLP

29
30 By: /s/
31 Janet L. Keuper
32 Attorneys for Defendant CHAD MELTON

ATTESTATION REGARDING SIGNATURES

I, Scott J. Carpenter, attest that all signatories listed, and on whose behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the filing.

By: /s/ Scott J. Carpenter
Scott J. Carpenter

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 31, 2023

By:



HON. MARGO A. ROCCONI
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name],
of _____ [print or type full address], declare
under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the
Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for
the Central District of California on _____ in the case of *Regina Castro*
v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. 2:23-cv-
02810-WLH-MARx. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of
this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to
so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt.
I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item
that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in
strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date:

City and State where sworn and signed:

Printed name:

Signature: